[Mr. P. N. Krishna Pillai.]

will entail much hardship to the shop-owners as they are generally too poor to employ paid servants to assist them in conducting these shops.

The prohibition of sale of toddy to women is likely to cause hardship to women engaged in field labour as in their case toddy is generally taken as a food and beverage rather than as an intoxicant. Such prohibitions cannot also effectively prevent women drinking toddy as the law allows the possession and transport of toddy up to half a gallon without license or permit. For these reasons, the Government do not consider that the proposals are feasible.

(2) The answer is in the negative

Facilities for earlier Registration of Documents.

65. **Mr. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI** (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): (1) Will the Government be pleased to state the maximum number of documents expected to be registered by a Sub-Registrar in the course of a year with his normal staff, without undue strain on himself and on his staff and without inconvenience to the parties?

(2) Will they kindly consider the desirability of issuing orders that additional or itinerant Sub-Registrars should be appointed in places where the number of documents registered has exceeded half this number in the course of six months?

(3) Are they aware that documents accepted for registration daily is considerably less than the number produced by parties in several Sub-Registry offices?

Mr. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (1) There are three classes of Sub-Registry offices having a staff of five, six and seven clerks respectively. These can register in normal circumstances 3000, 4000 and 5000 documents respectively.

(2) The Government will investigate the matter.

(3) The answer is in the negative.

Removal of the Hospital for Lepers.

66. **Mr. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI** (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): (1) Will the Government be pleased to call for and place on the table a report as to whether leprosy is not spreading in the neighbourhood of the hospital for lepers at Oolampara?

(2) Are the Government aware that at the time the Leper Asylum was opened in that locality, the belief was that leprosy was not contagious?

(3) In view of the infectious nature of the disease and the proximity of the hospital to the town and the scarcity of drinking and bathing water during the hot weather and the general unsuitability of the place for a leper colony, will the Government be pleased to take steps to open a leper colony in some suitable place, away from thickly populated places?

Mr. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): (1) Enquiries made show that leprosy is not spreading in the neighbourhood of the Hospital for Lepers at Oolampara.

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